Creating Accessible Storytimes

How to "Ramp" Up Your Storytimes for All

Overview

- The Who
- Universal Design
- Getting to Know Who
- Applying Universal Design
- Why

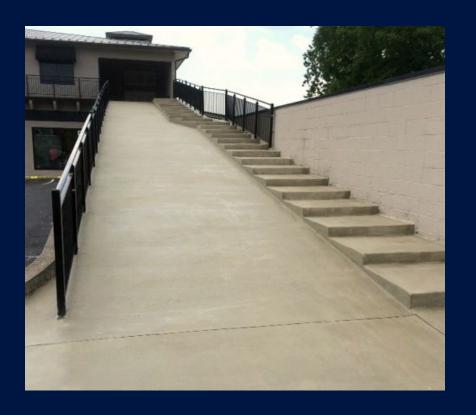
The Who

- Disabilities
 - Developmental disorders (autism, downs syndrome, etc.)
 - Hearing impaired
 - Learning disabilities
 - Physical disabilities

- ESL
- Ethnicity
- Religion

Universal Design

Making something that works for everyone



Developmental Disabilities

- Set expectations
- Be detailed
- Be consistent
- Provide special seating
- Reduce lighting and sound
- Let them know ahead of time of any changes and ask if they may need accommodations

Hard of Hearing

- Provide special seating
- Provide text for songs
- Let them sit near where music may be coming from (speakers/live performers)
- Communicate ahead of time with parent/guardian to learn of additional accommodations needed
- Provide ASL storytimes when possible or incorporate ASL into parts of storytimes

Learning Disabilities

- Go slow
- Speak clearly
- Use visual clues like pictures or tactile objects

Physical Disabilities

- Allow for space
- Provide special seating
- Allow early arrival for seating accommodations

Visual Disabilities

- Be descriptive/specific
- Use additional senses
- Provide tactile items
- Stay away from vague words and phrases like "this," "that," "over there," etc.

ESL

- Partner with English speaking family members
- Collection development
- Learn and incorporate a few words into your storytime
- Use pictures and their descriptions

Ethnicity & Religion

- Be mindful of cultural differences
- Provide diverse books to show the spectrum of your community

Virtual Storimes

- Captions
- Clear
- Consistent
- Contrast
- Descriptive
- Repetitive

In House Storytimes

- Clear
- Consistent
- Contrast
- Descriptive
- Repetitive

Why

- 1,398 hearing impaired under age 5 in MO
- 1,426 visually impaired under age 5
- 49,054 developmental disabilities under age
 18
- 7,169 physical disabilities under age 18
- 10,186 self-care difficulty under age 18

Why

Because we serve our community!

Questions?

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